

Testimony from Elizabeth Abbe, 44 Knollwood Drive, Glastonbury CT

In OPPOSITION TO SB 1148: A bill to legalize a lottery to hunt black bears in Connecticut

Honorable Members of the Environment Committee

I strongly urge the Committee to oppose this bill that would allow black bears to be hunted in Connecticut.

On numerous occasions in my town I have encountered black bears, including a mother and her cubs. It was a magical moment to see a bear in the wild. At no time did I feel threatened or afraid. In fact, the bear wanted to get away from me and go on about its business immediately.

Instead, of a bill to hunt bears, the Environment Committee should promote activities to education Connecticut's citizens on how to live with them. Bears are attracted to food sources not people. Communities who have succeed in making it possible for bears and people to co-exist educate people on trash storage and discourage people from feeding wildlife. THAT should be the Committee's focus!

Instead, this legislation will be of NO benefit to Connecticut residents who enjoy a state where they can live in peace with wildlife.